MISSION MOMENTS

WWW.VALLEYMISSION.ORG

May 2025



Idaho Gives THANK YOU!

We had fun with Idaho Gives this year connecting with potential new donors and finding new partners to grow the ministry with. We were blessed to raise just over $32,000 with more funds on the way.
This year we hosted an open house where we had the opportunity to shine a light on all the completed work, and the work that will be done once we're open.
We couldn't do this without you. THANK YOU!

Idaho Gives



In This Issue

Street Reach - Page 2

Construction Update - Page 3

Food Pantry Bites and Partners in Caring - Page 4

Volunteer Spotlight- Page 5

STREET REACH | VM

“I had no idea this was such an issue here.”

Just a raw and honest reaction to a ‘ride along’ with our Street Reach team.

As we made our way down to the river, it was evident that some things had changed. Less trash and clutter than usual. There seemed to be a sort of ‘order’ to the area. And then it was evident as to why.

What normally was 2 or 3 tents was now 6 in one area and 1 off to another side. Neatly kept and with some organization to it. Much like you would see in a typical home.

Then again, for these people, this *IS* home.

And this was just one of the sites we visited. We haven’t been out to the many others in town yet, but as we visit throughout the month, this number will only increase. According to the Police, our homeless population is expected to double this summer, putting an even heavier strain on overextended community services and resources.



For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good...

Mark 14:7



Construction Progress

Progress is progress...

- Framing is 100% complete! WOW! It is very revealing to walk through this space and be able to not only imagine what we'll be doing, but to now see where and how it will all come together.
- Hiring a fire sprinkler contractor is still a challenge for our contractor. We are looking for another contractor to come in and get this bid done so work can start. This part is crucial to get the Food Pantry phase open by summer.
- Dirt work and concrete work are underway in front of the building. (See the picture above.) The plan is to get this in very soon and get the ground ready for a 'community garden' space. We would love to be able to help the community with fresh produce and an opportunity to learn how to plant and care for the garden as well.



Our Food Pantry Volunteers are SO EXCITED for the new space.
Not because it gives us more storage.
Not because it will be new.
And not because it gives us more space to serve.
This new space has one thing our current space does not - *STAIRS to access the food pantry!!!*
And that is a blessing to our guests as well, especially those with mobility or other health issues.



Food Pantry Bites

Pantry Trends n Such:

- April was an odd month in that we didn't have our usual high numbers in the food pantry. Guests found jobs, some got tax refunds, others found resources in other areas.
- We have continued to see more new families every week. Many of these are now identifying as homeless.
- I want to continue to brag on our 100% volunteer team that serves our guests on Wednesday and Thursday! If you haven't been by on either day to see - and hear - these teams in action, you're missing out. They are nothing short of AMAZING and the most selfless people you will ever meet in this valley.

Partners In Caring

We collect donations from 14 different grocers and convenience stores every week. Each month we will celebrate one of these incredible partners.

Our local Costco store is amazing! Not only are they generous with their food donations, but occasionally other items are given. From mattresses to health and hygiene items, oil for cars, and a myriad of other useful items, Costco provides for our guests week after week. And they are such a pleasure to work with.

THANK YOU, COSTCO!

VOLUNTEER Spotlight

I feel honored to be able to honor this group of volunteers this month. Without them, NONE of this is possible. They say it takes a village...and that rings true at Valley Mission. While I am the director, I literally cannot be in two places at once. So I rely on leaders in various capacities to share the load and tasks, so that we can serve our amazing guests week in and week out. Many, many, many hands make not only light work—but life-changing work. THANK YOU to Bev, Darrel, Larry, Kathy, Oli, Penny, Stuart, as well as our up-and-coming leaders in Elynda, Denise, and Zurina. Because of your commitment to serve our guests and lead our teams, we are better!

THANK YOU, LEADERS for your heart and willingness to stand in the gap and lead!

Food Pantry Opportunities

There are a few ways to serve:

Wednesdays, 8 am - 11:30 am
Food is delivered from our 14 stores as well as from the Idaho Foodbank. Unloading, sorting, organizing and building food boxes takes place on this day.

Thursdays, 10 am to 11 am
Additional food deliveries from some of the same stores. Unloading, sorting and organizing takes place here.

Thursdays, 3:30 to 6 pm
Food is distributed to the community. Most 'jobs' deal with serving the guest as well as carrying boxes to their vehicles.

Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

ROMANS 12:10